

Jesus is God's love made visible. We are the body of Christ—ears, eyes, mouth, hands, and feet. Through the Spirit living in us, we participate in making love visible.

As members of the AIMM family, God's love flows through you and becomes visible in the ministries we share with our African church partners.

Through your gifts of prayer, time, and money for AIMM's General Fund, you help make possible the ministries described here, and more!



Front cover photo (top): Marlene Epp, professor at Conrad Grebel University College, and Annie Tshimbila, professor at the Kalonda Bible Institute, outside of Dibumba Mennonite Church in Tshikapa during the Mennonite Church of Congo centennial celebration in 2012. Photo by James Krabill.

Front cover photo (bottom): Pastor Samson Matabaro, Durban is seated, being prayed for by (L to R) Mzi Nkutha, Johannesburg; Thulani Moyo, Johannesburg; Paul Tsie, Johannesburg; Lawrence Coetzee, Cradock; Nkosinathi Ngobo, Cape Town; Calixte Bananzaro, Ouagadougou; Rod Hollinger-Janzen, Goshen; Bululani Nqoro, Colesberg at the International Central Council meeting in October 2017.

Back cover photo: Arouna Sourabie in his bean field. Arouna received agricultural training and is a resource for the church in Burkina Faso.

Reconciliation

Kandale was one of the 8 original AIMM/CIM mission stations that helped nurture and grow Mennonite Church of Congo. During an anti-government rebellion in 1964, Kandale missionaries were threatened and the station was burned. Some persons who had been members of the church participated in these actions. Since that time, the people of Kandale have suffered guilt for having mistreated missionaries. They also suffered neglect as AIMM involvement with the station diminished significantly after 1964. Native son Macaire Kilambo spearheaded an effort supported by AIMM to bring church leaders, community leaders and missionary representatives together in order to reconcile and to, by faith, provide the community with a new start. The event took place October 12-15, 2017.



Working together to make
love visible

Travailler ensemble pour rendre l'amour visible



Above: A women's choir sings during the 6 hour-long reconciliation ceremony at Kandale, Friday October 13.

Right: Stan and Brad Graber, members of the AIMM delegation, greet traditional chiefs upon our arrival in Kandale



Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission

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2017 AIMM International Central Council meeting

Bringing people together

AIMM's annual meetings were held October 2-7 in Johannesburg, South Africa. It was an opportunity to connect with many Mennonite-related South African church planting and peacebuilding ministries, and for them to connect with each other. Participants shared ministry updates and prayed for each other. Since that time, two Durban-area participants who are church planters, Samson Matabaro and Baudouin Nsulunka, have met for mutual encouragement and to share ministry understandings. Matabaro brings a wealth of knowledge and experience on how refugees can best integrate into South African society. Nsulunka's church is an outreach to Congolese refugees in need of what Matabaro has to offer.

Bible translation

Mennonite Church of Congo has partnered with CIM/AIMM over many years to produce Bible translations for its major ethnic groups, including the Pende and Chokwe. A smaller ethnic group within the church, the Bashilele, has now seized the opportunity to work toward a Kishelele Bible in collaboration with Wycliff Associates, Hope for Congo and AIMM. A group of 8 church leaders work at translation of one verse each and every day. They gather on Saturdays to correct each other's work. Once a quarter they consecrate two weeks to full time translation work. Since the work began in July 2017, they have translated Philemon, I Peter, II Peter, Mark and Matthew.

Encouraging & equipping leaders

The Congo Leadership Coaching Network led by Charles Buller and Leonard Kiswangi continues to carry its message of building leaders through spiritual transformation to the Mennonite Church of Congo. Introductory leadership development seminars have been held in Mukedi, Kikwit, Nyanga, Ilebo, Gungu, Kahemba, and Kinshasa. One basic principle of the biblically based curriculum is that every woman and man is created uniquely by God, and brings a unique combination of gifts into the body of Christ. Those gifts are to be



Antoinette Kiswangi, interpreted by her husband, Leonard, teaches about a respectful view of a woman in marriage.

identified, developed and used for God's kingdom purposes. The teaching, testimonies and fellowship have served to challenge and revitalize hundreds of leaders, both men and women. In November 2017 this seminar will take place in Tshikapa, Kalonda, and Mbuji Mayi.

Economic Development

A delegation of 5 French Mennonites, together with AIMM Executive Coordinator Rod Hollinger-Janzen, will travel to Burkina Faso November 24-December 1 to engage with the Evangelical Mennonite Church (EMC) on economic development. Interested and committed persons from across the church will team up with the EMC National Committee and the international visitors during a two-day gathering, to reflect on and debate about how the church can impact its members and beyond by developing competencies and programs to promote economic development.



Frederic Pignard (center), a representative of the French Mennonite Mission Committee, shares about economic development in Burkina Faso.